

EPA, as it exists today, does not have the institutional ability to meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century. My bill reflects the recommendations of several expert witnesses at the Subcommittee's hearings about how to make the EPA a more effective protector of the environment.

A RESOLUTION HONORING STEPHANIE SMITH, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF WALDRON, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Stephanie Smith, winner of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Stephanie is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Stephanie is an exceptional student at Camden-Frontier High School, and possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. Stephanie has received numerous awards for her excellence in academics and athletics, as well as her volunteer activities with Student Council, coordinating sponsorships for seven needy families for Christmas. In addition, Stephanie has participated in 4-H for 10 years, winning a State Gold Public Speaking Award and being chosen as Regional Star Farmer in FFA.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Stephanie Smith for her selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY KAY KOSA

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to Mary Kay Kosa, a community leader and dear friend. On Sunday, May 18, 2003 a plaque will be dedicated in Mrs. Kosa's memory for her service to the Monroe County Mental Health Board.

Born in Monroe County in 1928, Mary Kay Kosa spent her life helping others. She served 22 years on the Monroe County Mental Health Board, from her appointment in 1980 until 2002, acting as Chairperson from 1994 on.

During her tenure Mrs. Kosa helped facilitate the growth of the program by endorsing co-operation with the Washtenaw County Health Organization. She also helped to turn the former county department into an authority, an accomplishment that aided the development of mental health services in the area.

In addition to her service on the Mental Health Board, Mary Kay Kosa was renowned for lending a helping hand to anyone in the community. During her 25 years as a teacher in the Monroe public schools and another 25 years as an administrator, she touched the lives of thousands of children and teachers alike. Moreover, Mrs. Kosa aided in the advancement of minorities by participating in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and chairing the Monroe branch of the American Association of University Women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the life of Mary Kay Kosa. She often said, "if you live in a community, you owe that community and I have a commitment to Monroe." Mrs. Kosa and her husband of 50 years, Edward Kosa, lived by this philosophy in addition to encouraging others to do the same.

RECOGNIZING HIV VACCINE AWARENESS DAY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sixth annual HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. As we all know, HIV/AIDS is the deadliest epidemic in medical history. Twenty million people globally have died and another 40 million are infected. Significant advances have been made in the treatment of HIV/AIDS, however the number of lives lost is a clear indication that much more must be done. The development of an effective vaccine to prevent HIV remains science's greatest hope in halting the epidemic.

The HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) is a network of clinical sites in the United States and abroad dedicated to the development of an HIV vaccine through testing and evaluating candidate vaccines in clinical trials. The network includes 18 sites in the United States and 11 international sites, including those in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. Two of the domestic sites are located in my congressional district. Fenway Community Health Center and Brigham and Women's Hospital are members of the Harvard HIV Vaccine Trials Unit, under direction of the National Institutes of Health.

As we commemorate the Sixth Annual HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, we honor the thousands of volunteers who have literally rolled up their sleeves to receive an experimental vaccine designed to prevent this disease. Without clinical trials of HIV vaccines and the support of these volunteers, community leaders, researchers and educators, HIV will continue to devastate communities throughout the United States and the world. Communities in my district and around the nation will hold a variety of activities today to raise awareness about preventive HIV vaccine trials, why a vaccine is the best hope for stopping the spread of HIV, and how ordinary people can

be a part of the international effort to stem the pandemic. I urge my colleagues to participate in these events and learn more about the work being done to find a vaccine for HIV/AIDS.

REV. RICHARD POLMOUNTER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN PRIESTHOOD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Reverend Richard J. Polmouter, pastor of Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church and Saint Mary's Assumption Church, and administrator of Saint Mary's Assumption School, all located in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Father Polmouter, the son of Catherine B. Maduro Polmouter and the late Frederick S. Polmouter, is a 1970 graduate of Hazleton Senior High School. He attended Saint Pius X Seminary in Dalton and the University of Scranton, where he graduated with honors in 1974 with a bachelor of arts in history. His extensive education also includes a master of science degree in religious education, which he received from Marywood College in 1983. He was ordained to the priesthood by the late Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, Bishop of Scranton, on May 6, 1978, at Saint Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. He celebrated his first Mass the next day at his home parish, Holy Rosary Church, Hazleton.

As Father Polmouter marks his silver sacerdotal jubilee, he is being honored for his service at several events this month. Bishop James Timlin of Scranton celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with Father Polmouter and all the jubilarians of the diocese on May 12 at Saint Peter's Cathedral.

A parish celebration will take place the weekend of May 17 and 18. On May 17, a Mass will be celebrated at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church with the children of the parish, and on May 18, a Mass will be celebrated at Saint Mary's Assumption Church with the children of the parish school. A parish testimonial is planned for May 18 at the Saint Anthony of Padua Parish Center.

Before being appointed to his first and present pastorate in 1990, he served as an assistant pastor at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Plains, Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Dunmore, and the Church of Saint Mary of the Assumption, Old Forge. He also served for four years as the spiritual moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men and served as chaplain of the Hazleton Heights Volunteer Fire Company #4. He also served for six years each on the Board of Education Committee of the Diocesan Schools Office and the Priests Retirement Advisory Board. He is a member of the Board of Pastors of Seton Catholic High School and served two terms as the board secretary. He is currently serving a four-year term on the diocesan College of Consultors and the Presbyteral Council and is a member of the Greater Pittston Ministerium.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Reverend Richard J. Polmouter on his 25th

anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, and I extend my best wishes to him and the parishioners he serves.

**JOBES AND GROWTH
RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003**

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax cut threatens our nation's long-term economic future. It's not fair. It's not fast acting, and it's not fiscally responsible. That's why I am voting against it today.

Instead of this irresponsible plan, the House should be passing a bill that immediately stimulates job growth and our economy. Unfortunately, House Republican leaders silenced democratic debate by not allowing an alternative plan or any amendments to be offered in place of their reckless proposal.

I support an alternative jobs and economic growth plan that creates 1.1 million new jobs, cuts \$29 billion in taxes for working families, invests in small businesses and provides much-needed financial support to states this year. This plan also invests \$26 billion in homeland and economic security and forestalls state tax increases or service cutbacks, which would otherwise deepen the recession and destroy jobs. This is an immediate \$129 billion boost to our economy.

More importantly, this package avoids corrosive long-term deficits that harm the economy and undermine job growth. This plan pays for itself over ten years. Large long-term deficits harm the economy by driving up interest rates and undermining business investment and job growth. This plan maintains fiscal discipline so we can plan for our children's future.

Unfortunately, the House can't consider this proposal because it is being kept from the House floor today. Republican leaders are instead pushing a plan that is tilted even more toward the wealthy than the President's own proposal, adds billions to already record deficits and does nothing to create new jobs for the unemployed.

Republican leaders want to cut taxes for millionaires while leaving middle-income families behind. Their plan reduces the top tax rate on both dividends and capital gains to 15 percent. According to the non-partisan Tax Policy Center, this move saves taxpayers with incomes over 1 million an average of \$42,800. Amazingly, the top 5 percent of households receive 75 percent of this plans tax cut benefits. Under the Republican proposal, middle-income Americans will only receive \$217 this year.

We are in danger of piling up \$1.4 trillion in new debt over the next ten years if we pass these tax cuts today, a huge burden on our children's future. Bigger deficits will crowd out other national priorities like education, job training, housing and homeland security. We still must pay for the war and reconstruction in Iraq and continue the war on terror. Big deficits also leave Congress with little room to re-inforce Social Security and Medicare, especially now when baby boomers are about to retire.

I am extremely concerned about our nation's economy. I cannot support, however,

saddling our children with massive debt. That is why I will continue to support a fair, balanced plan and oppose the Republican tax cuts today.

**CREDIT FOR THE RECENT WAR
WITH IRAQ**

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the recent war with Iraq, many Americans are analyzing the battles and asking what lessons the military and its leadership learned. The Boston Globe carried an analysis on Tuesday, May 13, by Lawrence J. Korb, who was Assistant Secretary of Defense in President Reagan's administration.

In Mr. Korb's analysis, a great deal of credit for our success must go to President Clinton, who appointed many of the commanders, prepared and recruited the troops, and modernized the weapons and strategies used in the war.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Korb's work to the entire House and ask that it appear in the RECORD at this time.

[From the Boston Globe, May 13, 2003]

THANK CLINTON FOR A SPEEDY VICTORY IN
IRAQ

(By Lawrence J. Korb)

While it is understandable that President George W. Bush and his secretary of defense are receiving plaudits for the relatively swift military victory in Iraq, the fact of the matter is that most of the credit for the successful military operation should go to the Clinton administration.

As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld noted, the battle plan that led to the American success was that of General Tommy Franks, an Army officer appointed to head the Central Command by the Clinton administration. More important, the military forces that executed that plan so boldly and bravely were for the most part recruited, trained, and equipped by the Clinton administration.

The first Bush defense budget went into effect on Oct. 1, 2002, and none of the funds in that budget have yet had an impact on the quality of the men and women in the armed services, their readiness for combat, or the weapons they used to obliterate the Iraqi forces.

Given the way that Bush and his surrogates disparaged Clinton's approach to the military in his 2000 campaign, this is ironic. The president and his advisers claimed that Clinton had diminished the armed forces' fighting edge by turning them into social workers and sending them too often on "useless" nation-building exercises. These same people also claimed that Clinton had so underfunded the military that it was in a condition similar to that which existed on the eve of Pearl Harbor.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2000, Vice President Dick Cheney summed up the Bush team's sentiment toward what Clinton had done to the military: He went around the country telling the military and the nation that help and additional support were on the way for our troops.

Anyone examining the facts would know that these claims were bogus. The Clinton administration actually spent more money on defense than had the outgoing administration of the first President Bush. The

smaller outlays during the first Bush administration were developed and approved by Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell, who were then serving as secretary of defense and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff respectively.

Clinton's last secretary of defense, William Cohen, turned over to Rumsfeld a defense budget that was higher in real terms than what James Schlesinger had bequeathed to Rumsfeld when he took over the Pentagon for the first time in 1975 at the height of the Cold War.

Not only did Clinton spend a large amount of money on the military; most of it was spent wisely. In the first Persian Gulf War, less than 10 percent of the bombs and missiles that were dropped on Iraq were smart weapons. That number jumped to 70 percent during this war because the Clinton administration ordered large quantities of upgraded munitions that made these "dumb" weapons smart. The Clinton administration also invested heavily in the technology that gave the on-scene commanders a much more vivid picture of the battlefield than a decade ago.

It was the Clinton administration that improved the accuracy of the Tomahawk cruise missile and upgraded the Patriot missile, which was so much more effective this time than the original Patriot in the first Persian Gulf War. The Clinton administration also kept the quality of our military personnel high by closing the gap between military and private sector compensation, a gap that the first Bush administration had allowed to grow, and improving retirement and health benefits for military retirees.

So if this latest military effort warrants a victory parade for the troops, let's insist that Clinton and his secretaries of defense are invited. They deserve it. And if the Bush administration wants to learn how to rebuild the nation of Iraq, they might ask their predecessors how to go about it.

IWA CALLING CARDS TO TROOPS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the young people at Incarnate Word Academy, IWA, in Corpus Christi, TX, for their understanding and concern about international events and their concern for U.S. troops still stationed overseas fighting the war on terror.

These young people appreciate the military service of those in Iraq and Afghanistan—and elsewhere—and they are showing that concern in a substantive way. They have raised money to buy calling cards so the men and women in uniform can call their homes and families.

I am particularly proud of these young people since they are from my congressional district. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know how important these amenities are for our troops stationed overseas.

First of all, this saves our troops and their families' money on telephone bills. Secondly, it demonstrates to those wearing our uniforms overseas that people understand their sacrifice and want to help in ways that they can.

IWA could help in this way, and so they have. I want to thank Sister Camelia Hertlihy, IWA's Elementary Principal; Mr. Adolfo Garza, IWA's Middle School Principal; Ms. Suzanne Coleman, IWA's High School Principal; IWA